



News Release

Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Results of a recent survey are contained in this release. You can also find it on our site at www.nass.usda.gov/pa/ and click on the Pennsylvania Publications link.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tillage Practices Released

HARRISBURG, PA, July 1, 2013 -- USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Northeastern Regional Field Office, located in Harrisburg, PA, has completed its 2013 survey of tillage practices for major field crops in the Commonwealth. The survey is funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and conducted in conjunction with NASS’s annual June Agricultural Survey.

In 2013, conventional tillage was used on 16.1% of the major crop acreage in Pennsylvania, down from the 17.7% recorded in 2012. No-till was practiced on 62.3% of the major crop acreage, and other conservation tillage practices were used on the remaining 21.6%. Corn and soybeans are the two crops with the highest acreages. Conventional till was used on 18.3% of the corn acreage, no-till was practiced on 60.0% of the acreage, and the remaining 21.7% of the corn acreage used other conservation tillage practices. For soybeans, conventional till was used on 7.1% of the acreage, no-till was practiced on 73.2% of the acreage, and the remaining 19.6% of the acreage was cultivated using other conservation tillage practices.

Pennsylvania: Tillage Practices by Crop, 2013							
Crop	Total Acres Planted	No-Till ¹		Other Conservation Tillage ²		Conventional Till ³	
		Acres	% of Total ⁴	Acres	% of Total ⁴	Acres	% of Total ⁴
Corn	1,500,000	900,000	60.0	325,000	21.7	275,000	18.3
Soybeans	560,000	410,000	73.2	110,000	19.6	40,000	7.1
Barley	75,000	50,000	66.7	17,000	22.7	8,000	10.7
Winter Wheat ⁵	190,000	125,000	65.8	40,000	21.1	25,000	13.2
Oats	105,000	30,000	28.6	32,000	30.5	43,000	41.0
Total ⁶	2,430,000	1,515,000	62.3	524,000	21.6	391,000	16.1
Alfalfa Seedings ^{7/8}	-	-	45.0	-	23.0	-	32.0

¹ No-Till – A procedure whereby a crop is planted directly into a seedbed not tilled since harvest of a previous crop, or the planting of a crop into sod, previous crop stubble, or a cover where only the intermediate seed zone is disturbed. ² Other Conservation Tillage – Tillage practices prior to planting which result in a minimum of 30 percent ground cover or residue being retained on the surface following planting. Grass and weed control is accomplished primarily with herbicides. Includes ridge till, strip till, and mulch till. ³ Convention Till – Systems where 100 percent of the surface is mixed or inverted by plowing, power tilling, or multiple disking. ⁴ Sum of no-till, other conservation tillage and conventional till percents of total may not add to 100 percent due to rounding. ⁵ Wheat seeded the previous fall for all intended purposes including grain, cover, silage, hay or any other utilization. ⁶ Total excludes Alfalfa Seedings. ⁷ New alfalfa seeded or to be seeded during 2013. ⁸ Alfalfa seeded acres will be available in January 2014.

Pennsylvania: Tillage Practices by Crop, 2012 ⁹							
Crop	Total Acres Planted	No-Till ¹		Other Conservation Tillage ²		Conventional Till ³	
		Acres ⁹	% of Total ⁴	Acres ⁹	% of Total ⁴	Acres ⁹	% of Total ⁴
Corn	1,460,000	820,000	56.2	349,000	23.9	291,000	19.9
Soybeans	530,000	390,000	73.6	95,000	17.9	45,000	8.5
Barley	65,000	44,000	68.0	12,000	18.7	9,000	13.3
Winter Wheat ⁵	165,000	111,000	67.3	32,000	19.4	22,000	13.3
Oats	100,000	23,000	23.0	34,000	34.0	43,000	43.0
Total ⁶	2,320,000	1,388,000	59.8	522,000	22.5	410,000	17.7
Alfalfa Seedings ⁷	90,000	29,000	32.2	14,000	15.6	47,000	52.2
Grand Total ⁸	2,410,000	1,417,000	58.8	536,000	22.2	457,000	19.0

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